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Foreign Press Bulletin is a daily publication of the Foreign Documents Division giving press items of current interest which, to our knowledge, have not been reported by other media. The items are grouped by subject category.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

MACHINE TRANSLATION RESEARCH IN THREE COUNTRIES -- Paris, La Traduction Automatique, No 1, Apr 60, p 17-19

The official bimonthly publication of the French Association for the Study and Development of Automatic Translation and Applied Linguistics (ATALA) contains the following information on new foreign developments in machine translation.

France

A Center for Studies of Automatic Translation has just been established in France under the auspices of the National Center for Scientific Research and under the scientific direction of Dean Peres of the Faculty of Sciences of Paris. The two sections of the center, one at Paris and one at Grenoble, are perfecting a program of studies for machine translation of Russian into French. The two sections are in close liaison with ATALA, which will endeavor to contribute to it according to its means.

Czechoslovakia

A machine translation group was created in 1957 at Charles University, in Prague, established under the Faculty of Philosophy. The group is composed of Petr Sgall (president), B. Palek, Pavel Novak, and Dana Konecna. Until now its members have been working half time. In 1960, the group hopes to have at its disposal two or three full-time associates: linguists and mathematicians. According to Breda Pogorelec, who provided this information in Nase Teme, Zagreb, June 1959, the Czechoslovak group has established contacts with associates of the Institute for Research on Electronic Machines (Prague), which should make it possible to start test translations of English into Czech on the Czech-designed SAPO computer.

This group, which also has established contacts with Mel'chuk and Andreyev in the USSR, is especially interested in the problems of intermediate languages and apparently wants to orient its research along these lines. The Czechoslovak researchers and the two above-mentioned Soviet schools, seem to be coordinating; notably the choice of languages to be studied. Andreyev is expected in Prague in the spring, where he should hold a series of conferences. The group of the Faculty of Philosophy publishes "roneotype" documents from time to time.

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Yugoslavia

The beginnings of mechanical translation in Yugoslavia are closely connected with the names of Svetozar Petrovic (assistant in the Faculty of Philosophy of Zagreb, who began to study this problem in fall 1958), Vladimir Matkovic (professor at the Technical Faculty of Zagreb and director of the Institute of Telecommunications, who defended a doctoral thesis on the entropy of Croatian), and Bolcsu Laszlo (assistant in the Faculty of Philosophy of Zagreb and president of the "Circle of Young Linguists," who is interested especially in structural linguistics and linguistic statistics). Their meeting resulted in the beginning of studies of automatic translation of Russian into Croatian.

Undoubtedly under the impetus of this group of young researchers, Nase Teme (Our Problems), the official review of the Central Committee of the Croatian People's Youth, devoted almost its entire December 1959 issue to problems of machine translation and linguistic statistics.

The following philosophy emerges from the suggestions throughout this collection: (1) the production of machines adapted to mechanical translation would not yet be economical in Yugoslavia; (2) it would thus be necessary, first of all, to follow the evolution of the problem throughout the world, proceed to theoretical operations, adapt the language of the country to the requirements of machine translation, and prepare groups of specialists capable of functioning when machine translation becomes practicable in Yugoslavia; and (3) it would be necessary to attempt to establish collaboration with other small, Slavic-language countries, notably Czechoslovakia, to facilitate this research.

The activity of the group at Zagreb brought up to date the research of N. Tommaseo (1843) and Tomo Maretic (1899) who devoted themselves to quantitative studies of the Croatian language, as well as an idea of Stjepan Ivacevic, friend and contemporary of Tommaseo, who had attempted in the second half of the 19th Century to create a system of "pangraphie" to render any text automatically accessible to the reader, whatever his language.

MOSCOW UNIVERSITY CYBERNETICS SEMINAR -- Moscow, Problemy kibernetiki, No 3, 1960, p 273

The Seminar on Cybernetics under the direction of Prof A. A. Lyapunov continued to work during the 1958-59 school year at Moscow State University. The following papers were presented:

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R. R. Vasil'yev, Second International Congress on Cybernetics (3 March 1958); contents of the paper were published in the second issue of Problemy kibernetiki in the "Khronika" section.

Discussion of I. A. Poletayev's book Signal (17 October 1958).

S. N. Braynes and O. Ya. Kobrinskaya, Investigation of the Physiological Mechanism of a Complex Reflex in Mice Under Labyrinth Conditions (31 October 1958).

A. M. Petrovskiy, Report on the Mission to the US (14 November 1958).

A. A. Lyapunov, and S. V. Yablonskiy, Problem of the Systematization of the Basic Concepts of Cybernetics (28 November 1958).

I. Ya. Aksenov, Conference on Automation in Railroad Transportation (12 December 1958).

Yu. A. Shreyder, Means of Developing the Structure of Computers (26 December 1958).

A. P. Yershov, Report on the Cybernetics Symposium in London (26 December 1958);

M. G. Gaaze-Rappoport, Certain Problems of the Behavior of Living Organisms (13 February 1959).

N. Ye. Kobrinskiy, Cybernetic Problematic Topics in Economics (27 February 1959).

D. I. Volovaya, The Basis of Technical Norms of Weight and Speed of River Craft With the Aid of Electronic Digital Computers (13 March 1959).

G. V. Savinov, Electrical Simulation of Certain Self-Adaptive Systems (10 April 1959; a part will be published in Problemy kibernetiki, No 4);

A. A. Lyapunov, O. S. Kulagina, and T. N. Moloshnaya, Report on the Leningrad Conference on Mathematical Linguistics (24 April 1959, cf., pp 273-278 of this book).

POLITICAL

MONGOLIANS PRAISE CHINESE AID -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 22 Sep 60 p 6

CPYRGHT

The Mongolian-Chinese Friendship association opened a "Mongolian-Chinese Friendship Week" at Ulan Bator on 21 September in celebration of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

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The opening ceremonies were attended by: First Vice-Chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers Mozomjamts, Vice-Chairman of the great Khural Baljinyam, Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Political Bureau member Tu-lo-fan-lin, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Maydar, Foreign Minister Shagdarsuren, Vice-Chairman of the Mongolian-Chinese Friendship association Natsagdorj, and others.

On this occasion Baljinyam said, "The victory of the Chinese revolution is one of the great developments in world history following the great October socialist revolutionary victory. The Chinese revolutionary victory strengthens the power of the socialist structure and deals a blow to imperialism. China's revolutionary victory awakened and stimulated the national liberation movement, especially in the colonial and dependent countries of Asia and Africa. During the past 11 years China has made great achievements under the correct leadership of the Communist Party and with the close working relationship of the socialist countries, among which there is an unbreakable bond of friendship and brotherhood."

Speaking of Mongolian progress, he said that great achievements were made in the material and technical areas of socialist construction under the guidance of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and with the aid of the Soviet Union, China, and the brother countries in the socialist camp. Baljinyam continued, "The traditional ties of Mongolian-Chinese friendship is expanding anew under new historical conditions. Great China has given Mongolia brotherly aid which has resulted in tremendous contributions in the socialist construction of the country."

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ECONOMIC

ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES -- Berlin, Informationsbuero West, 19 Sep 60

An order for 200,000 submachine gun magazines valued at 5.4 million DM represents the largest of the ten plan items on hand at the Doebein Armature and Metal Works. The plant received the order 3 years ago and was required to make delivery during the first quarter of 1959. Inadequate technical preparations and production capacities have resulted in a delay of more than one year.

The majority of employees resented the fact that the plant started to produce magazines for submachine guns; many refused a transfer to the new magazine production department, saying they did not wish to produce armaments. The management tried to meet this resistance by offering 10-20 percent wage increases, but the employees remained indifferent. Chances that the order will be filled during 1960 are slight. At best, 60,000 magazines may be produced. The plant lacks about 40 milling and grinding machines, as well as measuring instruments. Moreover, it cannot obtain the additional 400 workers required for this new line of production. Present facilities permit an optimum monthly production of about 11,000 magazines.

The plant's plan quota calls for production of 322,000 submachine gun magazines during 1961 and a like amount each year until 1964. The quota was increased to 350,000 for the last year of the Seven-Year Plan. The Ministry of National Defense requested that the plant make up the anticipated 1960 shortage of 140,000 magazines by adding this amount to its 1961 production quota.

Past magazine production has been marked by a great number of rejects. The plant management has asked the People-Owned Wiesa Equipment Plant in the Erz Mountain region, which produces submachine guns for the East German Army, not to insist on precision work on the magazines. Each submachine gun produced by the Wiesa plant is to be equipped with seven magazines.

POTENTIAL FOR EXCEEDING OIL PRODUCTION GOAL -- Moscow, Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, 9 Sep 60

A. Annaliyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers Turkmen SSR, reports that with the discovery of the Kotur-Tepe, Okarem, Kamyshldzha, and other oil fields and with preparations under way for the development of offshore oil sites in the Caspian Sea to the west of the Cheleken

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Peninsula, Turkmenistan (already one of the USSR's largest oil producers) has the potential for exceeding the oil production goal set by the Seven-Year Plan and producing 10 million tons of oil in 1965, instead of the 7.5 million tons planned originally.

The constant growth in oil and gas production at the republic's existing fields and the prospects of increasing this production are making it necessary to build an oil refinery in the area of Chardzhou, whose water and railroad transport facilities would be an economic advantage.

JUSTIFICATION FOR MONOPOLY -- Belgrade, Ekonomska politika, 3 Sep 60, p 839

To avoid unfair competition in Yugoslav glass on the foreign market and to avoid unfair competition among Yugoslav exporters of glass who sometimes sell the same item to the same buyer at different prices, Yugoslav glass factories have agreed to work jointly on the foreign market and use fixed prices. Although such agreements would be improper on the domestic market, in the present situation they are justified on the foreign market.

Consequently, a commission has been formed in the Specialized Union for Nonmetals, which has the function of coordinating the export of glass and attending to prices. The commission is composed of representatives of all glass factories which export glass and is to protect the interests of glass producers in their exports of glass and to combat unfair competition on the foreign market by controlling prices at which individual producers will sell their glass for export. The minimum prices set will not be permanent but will be subject to change depending on the situation in the market and the enterprise concerned.

IRON AND STEEL DEVELOPMENTS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 21 Sep 60, p 2

In September 1958, when the Pei-tai-ho Conference of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party called for the production of 10.7 million metric tons of steel, a mass movement of establishing "small native mass" and "small modern mass" iron and steel enterprises was launched in China. The great potentials of these enterprises have now been revealed. The thought then was that China needed 10-15 years reasonably to adjust its iron and steel industry; yet 2 years later, with the exception of Tibet, every province and autonomous region in China has established iron and steel enterprises. China now has over 1,400 iron and steel enterprises, and about 3,000 "small native mass" iron and steel production sites.

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In 1949, China had only 20 large and small enterprises producing iron and steel and steel materials. Even at the end of the First Five-Year Plan, 20 of the 28 provinces basically could produce little or no steel, and 16 of the 28 provinces basically could produce little or no pig iron.

EDITORIAL URGES COKE CONSERVATION -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 22 Sep 60, p 2

CPYRGHT

The output of coke can be increased to ensure increased output of iron and steel. This reasoning is seen in the following: The coke ratios of medium and small plant furnaces of provinces and municipalities vary greatly; for example, the coke ratio in Yunnan is only 1.3 tons of coke per ton of iron. The coke ratios of large and medium blast furnaces of key enterprises also vary greatly; for example, the coke ratio of An-shan is only some 670 kilograms per ton of iron. If all the provinces, municipalities, and key enterprises can match these two advanced units, large quantities of coke can be conserved.

To conserve coke, the coking units should fully utilize coal and raise the quality of coke, and the smelting units should strictly practice conservation measures, strengthen managerial control, and reduce the coke ratio.

ALLOCATION OF MANPOWER -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 21 Sep 60, p 2

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We hope your attention will be drawn to the news carried in today's items on the important question of conserving manpower. This matter is significant: while we are turning up all potential manpower to strengthen the agricultural front, the need for strengthening labor management and for the scientific utilization of manpower is imperative to prevent and eliminate the extravagant use of manpower. Innumerable facts have proved that the extravagant use of manpower is the greatest of all wastes and that the conservation of manpower is the greatest of all conservations. The fruitful experience of various localities, such as Shansi and Ninghsia, carried in today's newspaper, serve as good examples of how to conserve manpower. -- Editor of Jen-min Jih-pao, in an open letter to the commune party secretaries

[Comment: The "experience" of Shansi and Ninghsia referred to in source and amplified therein is efficient use of manpower, such as reducing the time taken to repair farm implements and mobilizing over 3,000 women for a shock harvesting project.]

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